THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) No Sir. The H. B. Ghosh Committee set up by Coal India Limited was asked to submit its report by 31st March, 1990 and it has not yet been received

(b) Does not arise.

Report on environmental situation of Raniganj Coal fields

1465. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report from the H.B. Ghosh Committee appointed in 1988 to enquire into the environmental situation of Raniganj Coalfield; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Coal had set up an Advance Environmental Planning Group for Raniganj Coalfield in March, 1988 which was headed by Shri H. B. Ghosh, former Director General Mines Safety and also Ex-Chairman-cum-Managing Director CMPDI. The terms of reference of the Expert Group were as follows:—

(i) Detailed assessment of the environmental impact of development of coal mines;

(ii) suggest measures for minimising the degradation of land as a result of mining operations and to finalise the plan for afforestation;

(iii) suggest pollution control measures to be taken by the coal companies to ensure that mining activity is carried out in an environmentally compatible manner;

(iv) suggest an organisational set up which would expedite land reclamation and afforestation.

The Group has submitted its report which is more in the nature of an assessment in the coalfield area in general to serve as guidelines of environmental protection measures for projects to be taken up in future.

The report also deals with the problem of land subsidence in areas worked out in the past, air and water pollution in the area and protection measures which can be taken to ensure that mining activities are carried out in an environmentally compatible manner.

Reconstitution of the Coir Board

1466. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Kerala has represented to Union Government for the reconstitution of the Coir Board since its representation in the Board was nominal; and

(b) if so, whether Union Government propose to take urgent steps for the reconstitution of the Board and give adequate representation to all interests including the workers?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Request for reconstitution of the Coir Board has been received from the Govt. of Kerala. The Coir Board was reconstituted in September, 1988, for a period of 3 years, as per the provisions of Coir Industry Act, 1953 and Coir Industry Rules, 1954. Representation on the Board is given in accordance with the categories specified in the said Act and Rules. There is no proposal, at present, to reconstitute the Coir Board.

Hydel Power Project Schemes of Kerala

1467. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY: be pleased to state:

(a) how many hydel power project schemes of Kerala are pending for Central clearance; and

(b) whether Government propose to clear these projects expeditiously in view of Kerala's power situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) The status of the hydro-electric schemes of Kerala received in Central Electricity Authority for techno-economic clearance is as follows:—

	Name of Scheme	Date of CEA clearance	Present Status
1.	Adirapally (2×80 MW)	20-6-1989	Scheme has been rejected from environment & Forest angle.
2.	Annakayam (2×4 MW)	..	Do.
3.	Maniyar (10 MW)	..	Under Examination in CEA.
4.	Kuttiyadi (1×50 MW)	..	Do.
5.	Pambar (2×15 MW)	..	Do.

Puyankutty HEP (2X120 MW) was sanctioned by Planning Commission in August, 1986 subject to forest clearance. Forest clearance is yet to be obtained by the State Government of Kerala.

Utilisation of Reserves of Oil and Gas in the Arabian Sea near Cochin

1468. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that reserves of oil and gas have been found in the Arabian Sea near Cochin; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken for exploiting these reserves?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) On the basis of wells drilled so far in the offshore part of Kerala-Konkan basin, no hydrocarbon reserves have been established as yet and as such the question of their exploitation does not arise.

Adherence to the tests by the Blood Banks

1469. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of blood banks State-wise operating in the country as on February 28, 1990;

(b) in how many of these banks mandatory tests prescribed under the Drugs Act have been undertaken; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to ensure strict adherence to the prescribed tests and the norms as laid down in the Drugs Act?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) A statement showing number of blood-banks, State-wise, in the country, based on the latest information available in the Ministry, is annexed. (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, and rules framed thereunder, all blood-banks are required to obtain licence and carry out the prescribed tests. The enforcement of these provisions is the responsibility of State Governments through their Drugs Controllers. The State Drugs Control authorities have, however, been directed by the Drugs Controller (India) to carry out inspections of blood banks in their respective States on priority basis and ensure that they conform to the minimum requirements laid down under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act/rules